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SECOND UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE
ON THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES
Paris, 3 September 1990
Item 4 of the provisional agenda

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE SECOND UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

Note by the Secretary-General of the Conference

The Secretary-General of the Conference has the honour to transmit herewith the annotated provisional agenda for the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, prepared in the light of the discussions of the Preparatory Committee for the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries.[1/]

1/ See the report of the Preparatory Committee for the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (A/CONF.147/2).

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I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening of the Conference

2. Election of the President

3. Adoption of the rules of procedure

4. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

5. Establishment of sessional bodies

6. Election of officers other than the President

7. Credentials of representatives participating in the Conference:

   (a) Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee;
   (b) Report of the Credentials Committee

8. Review of progress at the country level thus far in the decade

9. Review of the progress in international support measures and particularly in official development assistance

10. National and international policies and measures for accelerating the development process in the least developed countries during the 1990s in accordance with their long-term national, social and economic objectives, and finalization and adoption of a programme of action for the least developed countries for the 1990s

[11. Other business]

12. Adoption of the report of the Conference.

II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. The Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries will be held in Paris, France, from 3 to 14 September 1990. The Conference will be preceded by a two-day consultation of Senior Officials on 30 and 31 August 1990, which will consider and make recommendations to the Conference on all outstanding organizational, administrative and procedural matters.

2. The mandate of the Conference, as contained in General Assembly resolution 42/177, is as follows:

> "(i) To review progress at the country level thus far in the decade;
>
> (ii) To review progress in international support measures and particularly in official development assistance;
>
> (iii) In the light of (i) and (ii) above, to consider, formulate, and adopt appropriate national and international policies and measures for accelerating the development process in the least developed countries during the 1990s in accordance with their long-term national, social and economic objectives."

3. In accordance with paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 44/231, the following are invited:

"(a) All States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies;

(b) Representatives of organizations that have received a standing invitation from the General Assembly to participate, in the capacity of observers, in the sessions and the work of all international conferences convened under its auspices to participate in the Conference in that capacity, in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 3237 (XXIX) of 22 November 1974 and 43/177 of 15 December 1988;

(c) Representatives of the national liberation movements recognized by the Organization of African Unity in its region to participate in the Conference in the capacity of observers, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 3280 (XXIX) of 10 December 1974;

(d) All executive heads of the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency, as well as other organs of the United Nations;

(e) Intergovernmental organizations in consultative status with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, which should be represented by observers at the Conference;

(f) Non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the Economic and Social Council, which should be represented by observers at the Conference;".

4. The Conference will take place at the Headquarters of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), 125 avenue de Suffren, 75700 Paris.

Opening of the Conference (agenda item 1)

5. The Conference will be opened by the Secretary-General of the United Nations on Monday, 3 September 1990, and will be preceded by an inaugural ceremony organized by the host Government.

6. Particulars of the inaugural ceremony, and the first plenary meeting, will be announced in the daily Journal of the Conference.

Election of the President (agenda item 2)

7. Rule 6 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Conference provides, inter alia, that the Conference shall elect a President from among representatives of participating States, and rule 46 determines the manner of election. The Preparatory Committee for the Conference recommended that the Conference elect as its President the head of the delegation of the host country to the Conference.

Adoption of the rules of procedure (agenda item 3)

8. Provisional rules of procedure for the Conference are contained in A/CONF.147/3.

Adoption of the agenda and organization of work (agenda item 4)

(a) Adoption of the agenda

9. The provisional agenda for the Conference, as approved by the Preparatory Committee, appears in section I above for ease of reference.

(b) Organization of work

10. The Preparatory Committee considered various matters with regard to the organization of work of the Conference. The Committee recommended the following:

(i) The total available services for meetings will be distributed, as required, among the Plenary, the two Main Committees, the General Committee, the Credentials Committee, and other sessional bodies

that may be established by the Conference, and regional group meetings. Facilities exist for a maximum of three simultaneous meetings to be held with interpretation each morning and afternoon.

(ii) A "meeting" is deemed to have an average duration of three hours; thus, the services provided for a meeting of three hours might, on occasion, be shared between two sessional bodies, and/or contact or regional groups, provided that the meetings so linked together take place consecutively.

(iii) Working hours of the Conference should be 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. and 3.00 to 6.00 p.m., Monday to Friday, the period from 9.30 a.m. to 10.30 a.m. being reserved for group meetings to the extent possible. However, in order to accommodate the many speakers intending to participate in the general debate, it will be necessary for plenaries devoted to this item to start punctually at the scheduled hour (i.e. 10.00 a.m. and 3.00 p.m.).

(iv) The general debate has been scheduled from 4 to 12 September. It is suggested that the list of speakers in the general debate should be closed on 7 September. There shall be no general debate in the Main Committees.

(v) Governments would, in so far as possible, designate as heads of delegation persons of ministerial or equivalent rank.

(vi) In order to enable the Conference to conclude its work on time and in the interest of an orderly organization of its work, it would appear essential that a timetable be approved at the beginning of the session and that every effort be made to adhere to it.

11. The Preparatory Committee approved a tentative schedule of meetings which is appended to annex IV of A/CONF.147/2. This tentative schedule will be before the Consultations of Senior Officials preceding the Conference.

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Establishment of sessional bodies (agenda item 5)

12. In line with rule 48 of the provisional rules of procedure, the Conference is to establish two Main Committees. Pursuant to rule 6 of the provisional rules of procedure, each Main Committee shall be chaired by a Chairman. Under rule 50 of the provisional rules of procedure each Main Committee shall, unless it decides otherwise, elect a Vice-Chairman.

13. The Preparatory Committee recommended that the two Main Committees should consider the review of progress, and national and international policies and measures (items (i), (ii) and (iii) of paragraph 2 above) and prepare texts of a Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s for adoption by the plenary.

14. The Preparatory Committee recommended that the allocation of issues for consideration by the two Main Committees could be as follows:

Committee I

Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s

(a) Basic principles
(b) Global framework
(c) Arrangements for implementation, follow-up and monitoring and review.

Committee II

1. Review of progress at the country level
2. Review of progress in international support measures
3. Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s

   (a) Mobilizing and developing human capacities in LDCs
   (b) Development, particularly expansion and modernization of the economic base.

Election of officers other than the President (agenda item 6)

15. Rule 6 of the provisional rules of procedure provides for the election of a President, a Rapporteur, 15 Vice-Presidents and a Chairman for each of the Main Committees to be established under rule 48. These 19 officers shall constitute the General Committee. In line with the same rule, the Vice-Presidents shall be elected after the election of the Chairmen of the Main Committees.

Credentials of representatives participating in the Conference (agenda item 7)

(a) Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee

16. Rule 4 of the provisional rules of procedure provides that a Credentials Committee of nine members shall be appointed at the beginning of the Conference and that its composition shall be based on that of the Credentials Committee of the General Assembly of the United Nations at its forty-fourth session. The States members of that Committee are Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, China, Colombia, Malawi, Philippines, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United States of America and Zaire.

(b) Report of the Credentials Committee

17. Rule 4 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Conference provides that the Credentials Committee shall examine the credentials of representatives and report to the Conference without delay. Rule 3 provides that the credentials of representatives and the names of alternate representatives and advisers shall be submitted to the Secretary-General of UNCTAD (Secretary-General of the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries), if possible not later than one week before the date fixed for the opening of the Conference. The credentials shall be issued either by the Head of State or Government, or by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, or by the Permanent Mission to the United Nations of the State at Geneva upon the explicit authorization of the Head of State or Government or the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Review of progress at the country level thus far in the decade (agenda item 8)

Review of the progress in international support measures and particularly in official development assistance (agenda item 9)

National and international policies and measures for accelerating the development process in the least developed countries during the 1990s in accordance with their long-term national, social and economic objectives, and finalization and adoption of a programme of action for the least developed countries for the 1990s (agenda item 10)

18. For the consideration of the above mentioned items (8, 9 and 10) the Conference will have before it the documents mentioned below (paragraphs 19 - 23).

19. The draft text of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s, formulated by the Preparatory Committee for the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, is contained in A/CONF.147/4. The text prepared by the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee entitled "Assessment of the socio-economic situation in the 1980s", together with the amendments proposed by the Group of 77, members of Group B, and China, and annexed to the text as an integral part of the assessment, is contained in A/CONF.147/4/Add.1.

20. The country presentations by individual least developed countries have been circulated in the series UNCLDC II/CP .....

21. The Declaration of the Ministers of the Least Developed Countries at their Meeting in Dhaka, Bangladesh (A/CONF.147/PC/6 and Add.1) is also made available to the Conference.

22. The document submitted to the Preparatory Committee by the Government of France containing French proposals to assist the least developed countries (A/CONF.147/PC/7 and Corr.1) will also be before the Conference.

23. Contributions from United Nations organizations and other competent intergovernmental and regional organizations are also being made available, as well as a number of documents prepared by the Conference secretariat. A checklist of documents will be issued in due course.

Other business (agenda item 11)[2/]

24. Any administrative and financial implications of proposed actions of the Conference will be brought to the attention of the Conference by the secretariat and subsequently be put before the General Assembly.

Adoption of the report of the Conference (agenda item 12)

25. It is suggested that the report of the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries should consist of an introduction and three parts. Part one should contain the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s; part two should contain the proceedings; and part three, organizational matters. It is also recommended that, in the preparation of his draft report, the Rapporteur should be assisted by two persons from each regional group and one person from China, to serve as "Friends of the Rapporteur".

2/ The Preparatory Committee decided to approve the draft provisional agenda for the Conference, with item 11 in square brackets. See paragraph 165 of the Report of the Preparatory Committee for the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (A/CONF.147/2).